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Title: Need to provide forest land for construction of a new road from Adilmalaikadu to Kemmampatty in Salem District, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN (DHARMAPURI): I would like to bring to the kind notice of the Government regarding the formation of a new road from Adimalaikadu to Kemmampatty in Palamalai Hills, Kolathur Panchayat Union, Mettur Taluk, Salem district, which falls in my Parliamentary constituency, Dharmapuri, under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The District Collector has certified that no alternative suitable non forest land is available and suggested for diversion of 3.97 ha of forest land for the formation of road in Palamalai Reserved Forest. The Principal Conservator for Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu has consented to the proposal of the District Collector as per guidelines laid down in the Hill Road Manual of Indian Roads Congress and sent it to the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Central), Bangalore. However, this authority has returned the proposal stating the possibility of soil erosion in that area. In this connection, I would like to stress here that the soil erosion is a regular phenomenon in all hill road development activities and this reason alone cannot be gauged for rejecting the said proposal.

In the absence of a road, the people of this area consisting of more than 33 villages located over a height of 4,000 mtrs. above sea level, have to walk around 05 to 15 kms for any purpose. Sometimes, they have to carry on shoulders, the patients and pregnant women through all these 05-15 kms and walk through the typical hill narrow lines to reach a hospital in Mettur.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to grant its concurrence forthwith for diversion of 3.97 ha of forest land for the above said road which is the need of the hour of the people of inhabitants in this hilly area.